

The John Doe Times
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*HOWE ATTORNEY BREWSTER JUST GETTING WARMED UP

The John Doe Times is an on-line, electronic newsletter devoted to the Oklahoma City bombing conspiracy and coverup. It is published in a manic-depressive schedule by the First Alabama Cavalry Regiment, Constitutional Militia and friends. Please direct email to Mo10Cav@aol.com.

Please direct snail mail, including side bets on the outcome of the Howe trial, to P.O. Box 926, Pinson, AL 35126. Our motto: Sic Semper Rodentia.

McCurtain Daily Gazette
Idabel, Oklahoma
July 29, 1997

GAZETTE REPORTER IS EXCLUDED FROM CAROL HOWE TRIAL.

By J.D. Cash

Tulsa -- With most of the state's media in attendance, and some national media including the New York Times in the courtroom, the kickoff of the long-awaited trial of Carol Howe began in earnest Monday.

The Tulsa World called the federal case against Carol Howe the most important to come to Tulsa in seven years.

But no sooner had the government begun calling witnesses in the conspiracy trial of the former Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms informant than this reporter was barred from the courtroom by the prosecution.

Citing a subpoena delivered to the McCurtain Gazette early this month, Assistant U.S. Attorney Neal Kirkpatrick told Judge Burrage that the Gazette's reporter was in Tulsa under a government subpoena to testify.

It was the Gazette which first broke an unrelated story about Carol Howe's work for the BATF.

That story concerned warnings Howe gave the BATF about a plan persons at a religious compound, called Elohim City, had to bomb federal buildings.

Howe's handler at the BATF had already said that such warnings were passed on prior to the disaster that struck in Oklahoma City.

After the Gazette story ran, the defense team for convicted mass-murderer Timothy McVeigh called Carol Howe to Denver, but the trial judge ruled her testimony "irrelevant" and barred her from testifying.

Under federal rules, if a judge grants a motion by either party to a criminal action to bar potential witnesses from the courtroom because they are expected to testify in the trial, then such witnesses cannot appear in court until after they have appeared on the stand.

When Kirkpatrick noticed this reporter in the courtroom, he told the judge that the Gazette reporter was still under a government subpoena and must leave.

Whether or not the government really intends to call this reporter to the stand is in doubt, though.

During a bench conference, Kirkpatrick was overheard saying, "Cash is the one who started all this and I don't want him in the courtroom."

JDT Commentary: Really, Mr. Kirkpatrick? Are you saying J.D. is the one who planted the "bomb-making-materials" in Carol Howe's home? Or are you alleging he was the one who tape recorded the "bomb threat" message on the answering machine. Perhaps you mean he "started all this" by probing too deeply into the OKC bombing? Or are you saying that J.D. blew up the Murrah building himself? Or perhaps closer to the truth, are you admitting that Carol Howe would not have been indicted had she never talked about the truth of OKC to J.D. Cash? I guess we'll have to wait for YOUR trial for that answer, won't we Mr. Coverup Kirkpatrick?

National attention has focused on Carol Howe since the Gazette stories earlier this year revealed her warnings to the government.

There were warnings that Justice Department officials today deny were detailed enough to act upon before the bombing of the Murrah building.

After the mid-afternoon incident in Tulsa, the case proceeded with the government putting forward the same arguments against Carol Howe as they did against her former housemate, James Dodson Viefhaus, who stood trial last week.

Viefhaus was charged in the indictment with Howe for allegedly conspiring to make a bomb threat and possession of an unregistered destructive device.

Monday, the head of the FBI's domestic terrorism unit played tapes for the jury of messages confiscated at the Viefhaus-Howe residence.

Those tapes were originally played on the couple's "hotline" in the weeks before the Dec. 13th raid on their home.

The government alleges one of those tapes represents a threat to bomb 15 cities.

The defense is expected to say that Howe was simply fulfilling her obligations to the BATF by appearing to be a legitimate neoNazi and thereby sympathetic to that "movement."

The tapes confiscated contain few racial slurs. They consisted mainly of stories taken from news articles and repeated on the pair's "hotline" they called the Aryan Information Network.

The superseding indictment against Howe also alleges she possessed an unregistered destructive device.

Easy-to-purchase items were found at the tula residence which the government says could be used to construct a pipe bomb.

Howe's records with the BATF show that she gathered most, if not all these items, and turned them int to the BATF months before the raid.

Special Agent Angela Finley Graham testified in the Viefhaus trial that Howe obtained racist literature and bomb-making components from Tulsa radical Dennis Mahon, who was a subject of the Bureau's investigation that Howe was once assigned to.

Graham also testified that she returned those items to Howe because they were not illegal to possess unless combined to make a bomb.

Viefhaus was found guilty of all charges against him last week.

But Howe's trial is expected to be the more difficult to prove because her voice is not on the tape the government contends was a bomb threat.

Moreover, her name was still on a list of informants the BATF used when her home was raided.

The Gazette will continue to cover the trial from other reporter's notes.

McCurtain Daily Gazette

Idabel, Oklahoma

July 30, 1997

CONTROVERSY OVER HOWE'S TRUE LOYALTIES BECOME FOCUS OF HER TRIAL.

By J.D. Cash

TULSA -- The controversy over Carol Howe's true loyalties-- and whether the FBI team that raided her house knew of her role in the Oklahoma City bombing case-- has

become the focus of the Tulsa conspiracy trial of the former informant for the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms (BATF).

Two FBI agents testified Tuesday about facts related to the raid on the residence Howe shared with convicted conspirator James Dodson Viefhaus.

But the stories they told about their lack of knowledge about Howe's undercover work were hard for many observers to swallow.

Howe's attorney contends the government was trying to destroy Howe's reputation because she warned the BATF about a plot to bomb the Murrah federal building in Oklahoma-- before the April 19, 1995, explosion.

That Dec. 13, 1996, raid was purportedly set in motion after a newspaper reporter called a "hotline" at the Viefhaus-Howe home and heard a message on the couple's answering machine that caused him to call the head of the FBI's domestic terrorism unit in Washington, D.C.

That message said a letter had been received by a "high-ranking" member of the underground who warned that 15 cities could be bombed by Dec. 15 if certain actions were not taken by "white warriors."

Pete Rickel, the Tulsa FBI agent who tracks activities of suspected terrorists, said he had spoken with Howe in spring of 1996 about her concerns that her "cover" had been blown when the FBI released a document to the McVeigh defense team revealing her undercover work in the radical neo-Nazi movement.

But Rickel told the court Tuesday that when the raid was planned and carried out at the residence of the BATF informant, he and others had no inkling of who Howe really was.

Rickel claimed under cross-examination that he did not learn until later that Howe was the same person he spoke with in the spring about her role in the undercover investigation of the Oklahoma City bombing.

Several hours after the raid began, Rickel claimed he learned of Howe's identity.

Rickel also told Howe's attorney that he had told her earlier that the FBI would not offer her protection and that she should seek help from the BATF.

But the BATF also refused to provide Howe any protection after her cover was compromised, figuratively throwing her to the wolves, Howe attorney Clark Brewster has said earlier.

Rickel admitted under Brewster's grilling that Howe "theoretically" could have decided to continue playing the role of a neo-Nazi after learning the government was not going to provide for her safety from those who might take revenge against her.

Howe's defense in the trial is that she was working undercover for the BATF-- and that her statements and actions before the raid were simply part of her cover.

As part of that undercover work, Howe says she gathered bomb-making components from the subject of one of her investigations.

Yet, she laments, it is those components in her possession-- as a result of her undercover investigation-- that the government is using to charge her with.. a sort of Catch-22 situation.

The government contends Howe's work for the BATF ended in the summer of 1995 and that she had no reason to associate with members of the radical white power movement after that.

But Howe's actual records with the BATF indicate that she was still on the books as an approved BATF informant at the time of the raid on her home.

Moreover, a document obtained by the McCurtain Gazette shows the level of concern the government had about Howe's true identity and the highly sensitive work she was apparently still performing for the government.

Months after government officials said Howe was no longer an informant, an April 22, 1996, BATF memorandum had this to say:

"This informant is involved with the Oklahoma City bomb case which is pending prosecution in Denver and was the key in identifying individuals at Elohim City, which is tied to the Oklahoma City bombing case."

During the Viehhaus trial, Howe's handler at the agency tried to explain the discrepancy this way: That Howe's still being on the books as an informant was a "procedural matter" and should be "disregarded."

Special Agent Angela Finley Graham also testified last week during Viehhaus's trial that she had no idea what Howe was doing in 1996-- and was unaware a raid had been planned on her home.

But FBI special agent Chris Peters took the stand Tuesday and provided a strong suggestion that Graham may very well have known.

After explaining his role in the raid on the Howe residence, Peters was asked by defense attorney Clark Brewster during cross-examination who he was married to.

"Angela (Finley) Graham," Peters replied.

Peters said he had no idea of Howe's relationship with his wife when he participated in the raid.

The defense is expected to begin putting on its case later this week.

(END OF STORY.)

Tulsa World
Howe Jury Told of OC Angle
By David Harper
World Staff Writer 7/30/97

The defense claims she warned an ATF agent about the 1995 bombing but was ignored and left to "fend for herself," forcing her to go further into the white supremacist movement.

For the first time, former federal informant Carol Howe's alleged warning of the April 19, 1995, Oklahoma City bombing was mentioned Tuesday to the jurors who will determine her fate.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Neal Kirkpatrick called Howe, 26, the "poster girl" for "conspiracy theorists" who believe that the government is trying to cover up information about supposed prior warning of the explosion at the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building, which killed 168 people.

Howe is on trial in federal court in Tulsa for an alleged conspiracy with James Dodson Viehhaus Jr. of Tulsa that prosecutors claim involved a perceived bomb threat

as well as the supposed possession of elements that they say could have been crafted into a pipe bomb.

Viefhaus was convicted of all the charges in a separate trial last week.

During cross-examination of FBI agent Christopher Peters, Howe's attorney Clark O. Brewster brought up the Oklahoma City angle.

Brewster asked Peters whether it is true that Peters' wife, Angela Graham of the federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, had been named in two wrongful death lawsuits that allege she failed to act on Howe's reported warnings of the bombing.

JDT Commentary: Angela's got an FBI hubby, eh? One that she apparently has picked up since the OKC bombing. Hmmm, puts an entirely new spin on "ensure domestic tranquillity...."

Peters confirmed that the suits had been filed, but under "redirect" questioning from Kirkpatrick said that one suit had been dismissed.

Graham confirmed in an April 24 pre-trial hearing that Howe had told her that Andreas Strassmeir, a German national, had threatened federal buildings.

In a July 16 hearing in the Howe case, Brewster claimed that -- before the Oklahoma City bombing -- Howe had warned the ATF that residents of the far eastern Oklahoma religious compound known as Elohim City were talking of a "cataclysm" in the spring of 1995 and that federal buildings in Oklahoma City or Texas were being targeted.

Graham has not been directly questioned in court about Brewster's assertions, but the lawyer listed her Monday as a planned witness for the defense.

The prosecution continued with its case Tuesday. One of its witnesses, FBI agent Pete Rickel, said he talked with Howe in the spring of 1996, intending to discuss Elohim City in connection with the Oklahoma City investigation.

Instead, Rickel said, the conversation dealt with Howe's anger that the FBI leaked her status as an informant in March 1996 to Timothy McVeigh's defense team. Rickel said Howe wanted FBI protection.

He suggested she talk to the ATF about the situation, and she apparently already had.

During cross-examination, Brewster managed to introduce two April 1996 documents penned by the ATF that expressed the agency's frustration with the FBI for leaking Howe's name. The reports showed that the ATF thought the FBI owed Howe protection because she was "the key" source for identifying Elohim City residents in the Oklahoma City investigation, an FBI project.

One of those April 1996 reports apparently states that Howe had possibly been followed and had received suspicious telephone calls. One ATF report, as relayed by Rickel from the stand Tuesday, said Howe could be in "serious danger" from Elohim City residents, Tulsa white supremacist Dennis Mahon or anyone -- such as some militia members -- sympathetic to McVeigh.

Peters, who said he and Graham were married in August 1996, said Graham had told him she was angry at the FBI for releasing an ATF informant's name to the McVeigh defense, but she never mentioned Howe by name.

Despite Graham's anger, Rickel said he offered no protection to Howe and did not even make a note of the May 1996 conversation with her. Rickel said he did not hear from Howe again.

The issue is significant because the defense alleges that Howe had to "fend for herself" because she supposedly was offered no protection. Thus, the defense claims, Howe had no choice but to go even deeper into the white separatist movement, and self-preservation forced her into participating with Viefhaus in the activities of the neo-Nazi National Socialist Alliance of Oklahoma.

The prosecution, however, says Howe refused an offer from Graham to put her in a hotel for a weekend after her cover was blown. Prosecutors also say that Howe did not tell any government employee what she was up to after June 1995, when Graham and Howe allegedly agreed that Howe would do no more informant work.

Graham testified Friday during Viefhaus' trial that Howe never reported her activities with Viefhaus or the National Socialist Alliance of Oklahoma.

Rickel agreed Tuesday with a statement by Assistant U.S. Attorney Kevin Leitch that an informant, by definition, keeps in "constant contact" with his or her bosses and promptly passes on any information gathered.

The government acknowledges that ATF records reflect that Howe was an informant through Dec. 13, the day a search warrant was executed at the east Tulsa house

Viefhaus and Howe shared. However, Graham has testified that the only reason for Howe being "carried" as an informant from June 1995 through December 1996 is that "deactivation" of Howe would have meant that records of the Oklahoma City bombing investigation would have been destroyed.

Also on Tuesday, Kirkpatrick filed a motion asking that U.S. District Judge Michael Burrage disallow the anticipated testimony of Robert Sanders, a "former official" of the ATF. The U.S. Attorney's Office expects that Sanders will testify that Howe was an effective informant who was misused by Graham.

"Presumably," Kirkpatrick wrote, "Howe will argue that since she was improperly handled, she must have been left with the mistaken impression that she was acting on behalf of the ATF or other federal agency when she and Viefhaus acquired the explosives and made the tapes with the alleged threats."

Kirkpatrick argues that any such testimony will mislead the jury.

"A jury's determination of Howe's criminal intent is not dependent on Graham's conduct regardless of whether the conduct was proper or improper. It is important to remember that Howe, not the ATF, is on trial," he wrote.

JDT Commentary: We await the day, Mr. Kirkpatrick, when the ATF is finally put in the dock and called to answer for its crimes.

Earlier in the day, Burrage allowed various Nazi and racist paraphernalia found in Howe and Viefhaus' home into evidence despite Brewster's assertion that its introduction was an attempt by the prosecution to "smear" Howe's character and convict her because of her one-time political beliefs.

Brewster, who claims that Howe gathered the material as part of her informant duties, said the evidence was "calculated" to get the jury to fear his client and put jurors in a mindset to send her to prison, even if the government does not prove the bomb threat and possible pipe bomb counts.

Leitch said, however, that the literature "shows how seriously (Howe and Viefhaus) held their beliefs. It explains their motivations. It explains their attitude and the context of why they had pipe bomb components." Burrage issued a special instruction that the jury should consider the racist literature only to the degree that it might

illustrate the defendant's state of mind. He issued a similar instruction in Viefhaus' trial.

Also, during Viefhaus' trial, Rickel first announced that he believes that convicted bomb conspirator Willie Ray Lampley originally made the statement that Viefhaus apparently paraphrased when he recorded the Dec. 8 hotline message that is the basis of the bomb threat charge against Howe.

Brewster asked Rickel on Tuesday whether CBS News anchorman Dan Rather would be arrested if he said the same words on the air, namely: "A letter from a high-ranking revolutionary commander has been written and received demanding that action be taken against the government by all white warriors by Dec. 15, 1996, and if this action is not taken bombs will be activated in 15 pre-selected U.S. cities."

Rickel said at first that Rather should be charged, but he quickly backed off that statement and said Rather's role as a reporter would make the situation different.

JDT Commentary: Oh, go ahead and arrest him, Agent Rickel. As a matter of fact, I'm going to monitor CBS tonight and drop a dime on him myself once I've got a quote out of context. I'm sure he's got a piece of pipe in his garage, too. And everybody knows that CBS is a bigger criminal enterprise than the neo-Nazis.....

On a more serious note....if the above doesn't indicate to you, gentle reader, that no one is safe in the present neo-McCarthyite climate fostered by the ilk of Clinton and Morris Dees and enforced by an all-too-willing (if none-too-bright) federal police establishment, I don't know what more it will take to convince you.... Other than your own arrest on bogus charges.

Under Leitch's questioning, Rickel said he had no information that Viefhaus or Howe were reporters.

FBI agent Bart Lowrance testified Tuesday that FBI agents found an ATF ballcap at Howe's house during the Dec. 13 search. Brewster insinuated that he intends to introduce evidence Wednesday that will supposedly show that the ATF was supposed to accompany the FBI to Howe's home.

END OF STORY.

Tulsa World On-Line

July 28, 1997

Jurors Will Have To Decide Who the Real Woman Is

By David Harper

World Staff Writer

Just who is Carol Howe?

Is she a diligent informant who got in trouble with the federal government for insinuating it could have stopped the Oklahoma City bombing? Or is she a dangerously unstable woman who is trying to use her brief tenure as an ineffective informant to excuse a bombing plan of her own?

There is one thing we know for sure. Beginning Monday, she will be the defendant in the highest profile federal trial in Tulsa in at least seven years. Not since Colombian drug kingpin Jose Abello was tried and convicted in 1990, has a federal criminal case in Tulsa caused such a stir.

Time Magazine, People Magazine, the Washington Post and the Canadian Broadcasting Corp. are just a few of the media outlets that have filed -- or are in the process of putting together -- stories about Howe.

The petite, 26-year-old blonde is accused of conspiracy, willfully making a bomb threat and possessing the elements of what prosecutors claim could have been crafted into a pipe bomb.

A former Tulsa debutante, Howe was charged in March along with Tulsan James Dodson Viefhaus Jr. After a week-long trial, Viefhaus was convicted on all three counts late Friday after a jury deliberated for almost 12 hours.

Viefhaus and Howe got in trouble early last December after the Federal Bureau of Investigation was tipped to an answering machine message emanating from the home the two shared in east Tulsa. Viefhaus said that a letter had been "written and received" from a high-ranking revolutionary commander stating that bombs would be activated in 15 U.S. cities unless action was taken by "white warriors" by Dec. 15, 1996.

Based on this message, which is the basis of the "bomb threat" charge, a search warrant was executed on the Viefhaus and Howe residence. Prosecutors claim that they found the pipe, end caps, powder and fuse necessary to make a pipe bomb.

According to Howe's testimony last Thursday during the Viefhaus trial, Howe held no racist views until March 1994 when she claims she was pushed off a ledge at Chandler Park by "some black people" who she said were making sexually explicit suggestions to her. The incident led to her sustaining foot injuries that apparently continue to cause her pain.

Howe testified that she soon got a swastika tattoo. But Howe said she only genuinely held racist beliefs for "about six weeks" in 1994. Howe testified that she met Tulsa white separatist Dennis Mahon in May 1994 after calling his racist hotline. The two began to spend time together, though Howe insists it was not a romantic relationship.

ATF agent Angela Graham said Howe's filing a harassment complaint against Mahon -- together with information from the Tulsa Police Department -- led to Graham contacting Howe in August 1994.

Graham said Howe's initial assignment was to keep an eye on Mahon and those who came in contact with him, which quickly led to her taking trips with and without Mahon to Elohim City, what Howe described as a "religious, racial community" in far eastern Oklahoma.

According to statements Howe's attorney, Clark O. Brewster, made to the court at a pretrial hearing July 16, Howe gave about 70 reports about what she saw. Brewster said Howe told her ATF superiors about "dangerous, apocalyptic statements" coming from Elohim City leader Robert Millar and others at the compound, warning of a "cataclysm" coming in the spring of 1995.

Brewster said Howe told the ATF that there was talk at Elohim City of bombing federal buildings in Oklahoma City or Texas, talk which eventually became the subject of "daily meetings" in anticipation of the return of James Ellison to Elohim City.

Ellison, former leader of an Arkansas extremist group known as the Covenant, the Sword and the Arm of the Lord, allegedly had conspired along with a man named Richard Snell to bomb the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building in 1983. Snell was executed for murder on April 19, 1995, the day of the Oklahoma City bombing, and is buried at Elohim City.

Brewster said when the Murrah Building blew up, Howe felt like she needed to be more specific in her informant work.

Howe said Thursday the list that was found in Howe and Viefhaus' home last December of 18 possible bombing sites in the Tulsa area (as well as pictures of

buildings where Tulsa FBI and ATF offices are located) was part of Howe's information collected on behalf of the government.

Howe said she heard a "powerful murmur" in the fall of 1995 that Tulsa could be the target of a major bombing in the spring of 1996. Howe said Thursday she left messages in 1995 but that her calls weren't returned.

Brewster has claimed that Howe worked for both the ATF and the FBI for more than a year after the bombing. Graham has testified that Howe's name was accidentally leaked to the defense team of Timothy McVeigh in March 1996. Howe said Thursday that she feared for her safety.

By this time, Howe said that she was already engaged to Viefhaus, who she says she met in early 1995 while on an ATF assignment to infiltrate the local skinhead community. Howe said that she thinks Viefhaus viewed her as a "double agent" for the far-right wing and that he didn't realize the "degree" to which she was involved with the federal government.

Thinking she had no way out of her undercover duties, Howe said she set up the National Socialist Alliance of Oklahoma with Viefhaus. Their neo-Nazi literature, their post office box and even the hotline where the message at issue in this case was playing were all set up, Howe said Thursday, to collect names, addresses and phone numbers of potentially dangerous people the government might want to investigate.

The defense claims that many, if not all, the items the government claims could have been made into a pipe bomb, were returned to Howe by the ATF after she had collected them from Mahon in 1994-95.

In early 1997, Howe was free and charged with nothing while Viefhaus was indicted and in jail. Around this time, reports that Howe warned in late 1994 and early 1995 that federal buildings had been threatened began to surface.

Howe was named in a superseding indictment with Viefhaus on March 11 on the same facts in Viefhaus' original indictment. Brewster has said the indictment was a "retaliatory" move by the government meant to punish Howe for speaking out and frighten her into keeping her mouth shut in the future about the advance notice she had given about the Oklahoma City bombing. Brewster said the government did not count on Howe fighting back.

Brewster insists that the jury in Howe's case must be allowed to hear the evidence about Howe's Oklahoma City warnings because it is vital to a full understanding of the case.

Tulsa World On-Line

July 28, 1997

Howe's Facts Differ from Government's

By David Harper

World Staff Writer

The prosecution's view of the facts in the Carol Howe case is considerably different from those recited by the former debutante and her lawyer.

The government does agree that Howe did serve as an informant for the ATF beginning in August 1994 and that she did have several tape-recorded meetings with Tulsan Dennis Mahon and others and took several trips to Elohim City.

ATF agent Angela Graham did acknowledge in an April 24 pretrial hearing that Howe had said that German national Andreas Strassmeir had threatened to bomb federal buildings, that Howe had taken a trip in early 1995 with Elohim City residents to Oklahoma City where they shot off a "potato gun" and that Howe had insisted from their first meeting that Graham read "The Turner Diaries," a novel which some see as the blueprint for the Oklahoma City bombing.

However, the government has not confirmed the more specific warnings that Howe's attorney, Clark O. Brewster, claims that Howe made. The issue of Howe's warnings about Oklahoma City never came up during the trial of Tulsan James Dodson Viefhaus. Jr. because Viefhaus' attorney, Craig Bryant, never got into the subject. Depending on the rulings of U.S. District Judge Michael Burrage, the topic could be in play during Howe's trial.

The government claims Howe never provided it with anything against Mahon or anyone else that was used in a successful prosecution.

Graham testified Friday at Viefhaus' trial that Howe was "deactivated" in March 1995 for "instability" after she was reportedly transported to a mental health facility with what Tulsa Police thought were self-inflicted cuts.

Graham said Howe, at her own request, was briefly re-activated after the Oklahoma City bombing because Howe thought she might be able to find John Doe No. 2. Graham testified Friday that she thought that Howe was "flaky" but that the government would have used anyone who might help it find all those responsible for the bombing.

Graham said Howe spent three days at Elohim City at the beginning of May 1995 under the auspices of the FBI and turned up no usable information. Graham said she tried to "deactivate" Howe again as an informant but that her superiors in Dallas refused because they wanted to preserve all their files and information about the Oklahoma City investigation.

Graham said her next conversation with Howe was not until March 1996 after Howe's name had been revealed in the Timothy McVeigh case. Graham said Howe was offered protection but that Howe had said she wasn't worried.

Graham said Howe called her once or twice after that, worried about "men in suits" wandering around near her residence but that Howe never mentioned Viefhaus, the National Socialist Alliance of Oklahoma, or gave any indication of her apparent Nazi activities.

Tulsa World On-Line

July 29, 1997

Government Also On Trial, Attorney Says

By David Harper

World Staff Writer

The trial of former informant Carol Howe begins.

The trial of former federal informant Carol Howe began in Tulsa Monday with Howe's attorney telling jurors that they sit in judgment not only of Howe, but also of the government.

Howe is charged with conspiracy, willfully making a bomb threat and possessing items that could have been turned into a pipe bomb "in a New York minute" according to Assistant U.S. Attorney Neal Kirkpatrick.

Howe's attorney, Clark O. Brewster, opted not to give an opening statement Monday. But he has previously said that he believes Howe was charged in a "retaliatory" move by the government, a measure meant to punish the former ATF and FBI informant for speaking out about the advance warning she says she gave of the April 19, 1995, Oklahoma City bombing. Brewster made the statement about the jury judging the government as well as Howe during jury selection.

Howe was charged along with Tulsan James Dodson Viefhaus Jr., who was convicted of all charges Friday in federal court in Tulsa.

Kirkpatrick said in his opening statement that he sees the case as a "simple" one, involving a defendant that Kirkpatrick said was interested in starting a race war.

Kirkpatrick said the reference on a Dec. 8 answering machine message recorded by Viefhaus constitutes a true threat when considered in the context of the weapons, Nazi literature, "target" list and "how-to" books on explosives found at the house Viefhaus and Howe shared. The government alleges Howe helped "compose" the message.

Kirkpatrick said, "You'll see, you'll hear, you'll know what they were up to."

The case will be heard by a seven-man, five-woman, all-white jury.

The March 11 indictment in the case alleges Howe and Viefhaus founded the National Socialist Alliance of Oklahoma. The indictment alleges that the group's "philosophy and purpose . . . was to promote the alleged superiority and survival of the white or Caucasian race."

Two whites were excused from the 28-member jury panel because they were concerned that they would not be able to separate their consideration of the facts of the case from their repulsion over the racism promoted by the National Socialist Alliance of Oklahoma.

Howe said last week during her testimony in the Viefhaus trial that she held racist beliefs for "about six weeks" in 1994 after a traumatic experience in a Tulsa park. However, she said she no longer holds such views and that the tapes and literature associated with the organization were meant to elicit responses from people her government bosses might be interested in monitoring.

The government maintains it knew nothing of Howe's activities with the National Socialist Alliance of Oklahoma and that Howe was not authorized to do any informant activities after June 1995.

Another potential juror was excused because of her opposition to firearms. There were several legally owned firearms at the residence and Howe testified last week that she still owns three firearms.

Two other potential jurors were excused because they said they heard Viefhaus was found guilty last week and would have a hard time believing Howe innocent since she lived with Viefhaus.

Many potential jurors indicated they had heard of the case against Howe but none said that the media coverage had biased their opinion one way or another.

In light of Howe's anticipated defense, Kirkpatrick asked potential jurors if they believe the United States had "specific" warnings of the explosion at Oklahoma City's Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building that killed 168 people. Kirkpatrick also asked if any jurors believed that the government would not do all it could to prevent such a disaster.

None of the jury panel answered affirmatively to the questions.

Brewster told the potential jurors that he anticipates the case will last well into next week.

Each side announced its witness list Monday. Among the scheduled defense witnesses are Howe's former attorney, Allen Smallwood; Tulsa white separatist Dennis Mahon; ATF agents Angela Graham and Dave Roberts; FBI informant Richard Schrum; Howe's father, Bob; convicted bomb conspirator Willie Ray Lampley; Viefhaus' attorney, Craig Bryant; retired FBI agent Martin Weber and journalist J.D. Cash.

The rule of sequestration was invoked Monday for all potential witnesses except for David Argo of the FBI and Bob Howe. Cash will not be permitted to watch the trial.

The prosecution's witness list is nearly identical to that used in the Viefhaus trial.

In fact, Monday afternoon's testimony was virtually identical to that presented in the early stages of the Viefhaus trial.

Kenneth Piernick, unit chief of the FBI's domestic terrorism operations unit in Washington, D.C., testified that he was contacted last December by a journalist in Spokane, Wash., who was alarmed by an answering machine message in Tulsa. The message alluded to 15 bombs being activated in 15 U.S. cities on Dec. 15, 1996, unless action was taken against the federal government by that date.

Piernick said he considered the message to be a "profound threat" and that his colleagues in Washington were "visibly shocked." Piernick said he notified FBI officials in Oklahoma.

On cross-examination, Brewster asked Piernick if he was aware that Howe lived at the house where the message was coming from and if he knew that Howe was an informant.

Piernick said all he knows of Howe's informant background is "what I've read in the newspaper."

Brewster brought up in his questioning that informants are supposed to "talk the talk" and fit in with those they are monitoring.

Piernick said he didn't know the taped message was based on a statement made by Lampley until about a month ago. Lampley is in prison in Illinois after being convicted in federal court in Muskogee last year in a bomb conspiracy case.

However, Piernick said his concern would have been heightened, not lessened, in December if he had known of the Lampley connection due to Lampley's history of dangerous activity.

The day concluded with the jury hearing tapes of the National Socialist Alliance of Oklahoma's "Aryan Intelligence Network" hot line from which the Dec. 8 "threat" tape came.